

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SS-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 EA-11 EUR-25 FRB-03 INR-11 IO-14 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SP-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 XMB-07 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 OIC-04

NSC-07 DRC-01 /244 W

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R 221030Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1372

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2062

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, XB

SUBJ: 123RD (POLICY) SESSION OF THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL FOR
TECHNICAL COOPERATION

REF STATE 148757

1. 123RD SESSION OF COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL WAS HELD JULY 16, 1974. ALL ITEMS OF AGENDA WERE EITHER ADOPTED OR CONCURRED IN OR ACCEPTED (IN CASE OF REPORTS) EXCEPT ITEM VII, EXTENSION OF TERMS OF OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL INFORMATION AND INFORMATION OFFICERS, WHICH WAS DEFERRED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING.

2. ON DEFERRED ITEM, REPRESENTATIVE FOR INDIA RELAYED HIS GOVTS POSITION THAT DECISION OF CONSULTATIE COMMITTEE IN WELLINGTON TO EXTEND ONEINFORMATION OFFICERS TOUR, LEAVING IT TO COUNCIL TO DECIDE WHICH OFFICER, PRECLUDED DISCUSSION OF CPB DIRECTORS PROPOSAL TO EXTEND BOTH OFFICERS TOURS. (SINCE INCUMBENT IO IS PAKISTANI, THIS PLOY PROBABLY WOULD TERMINATE HIS TOUR IN EARLY 1975.) DIRECTOR MCGREGOR RESPONDED THAT MATTER ADMINISTRATIVE AFFECTING
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EFFICIENCY OF CPB AND SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DECIDED IN

WELLINGTON WITHOUT CONSULTING BUREAU DIRECTOR. HE POINTED OUT PRECEDENT OF DEPARTING FROM COLOMBO PLAN RULES IN EXTENDING TERM OF PRIOR PIO OVER 18 YEARS AND FIVE OFFICERS WHOSE TERMS EXTENDED BEYOND LIMITATIONS IN EXISTING REGULATIONS. HIS PROPOSAL WAS CIRCULATED TO COUNCIL IN AMPLE TIME TO PERMIT SEEKING THEIR GOVTS GUIDANCE AND SINCE RULE 6 PERMITS COUNCIL DECISION ON MATTERS LATER REPORTED TO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, HE URGED COUNCIL DISPOSE OF MATTER AT THIS SESSION.

3. PAKISTAN DELEGATE, INITIALLY IN FAVOR OF EXTENDING BOTH TERMS AS PROPOSED BY BUREAU DIRECTOR, LATER SUGGESTED COMPROMISE RECIRCULATING DIRECTORS PAPER TO REACH DECISION PRIOR TO NEXT COUNCIL MEETING AND, ALTERNATIVELY (IF NECESSARY), ELEVATING MATTER TO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR RECONSIDERATION. INDIAN DELEGATE AGREED WITH BUREAU DIRECTOR THAT RECIRCULATION NOT NEEDED BUT CONSIDERED IT USEFUL TAKE MATTER UP AGAIN AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE RAISING MATTER AGAIN AT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. HOWEVER, PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE FOR SHORT-TERM REPLACEMENT OF ONE OFFICER (PRESUMABLY PAKISTANI IO) IN EVENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE RULES AGAINST EXTENDING HIM. MATTER WAS LEFT FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

4. IN REGARD TO ITEM III, BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES, SEVERAL DEADLINES WERE CALLED TO ATTENTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

A. COUNTRY PAPERS DUE BY JULY 31.

B. NOMINATIONS FOR INTRA-REGIONAL TRAINING ADVISER DUE BY JULY 20, LATER EXTENDED TO SEPT 15.

C. TRAINING EVALUATION FORMS DUE BY JULY 31.

5. IN DISCUSSION OF ITEM VII, DRAFT BUDGET FOR 1974/75, ISSUE OF MORE APPROPRIATE WAGE SCALE FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYEES WAS RAISED AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT APPOINTED COMMITTEE OF SIX, CONSISTING OF MALAYSIA, BURMA, US, INDIA, CANADA AND SRI LANKA, TO BE ASSISTED BY BUREAU DIRECTOR AND UNDP RESIDENT REP AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS. NO DEADLINE WAS PUT

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ON COMMITTEE'S STUDY AND AT COUNCIL PRESIDENTS SUGGESTION, LOCAL SALARIES WERE INCLUDED.

6. ONLY OTHER SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION CONCERNED OFFICE ACCOMMODATIONS UNDER ITEM XII, OTHER BUSINESS. BUREAU DIRECTOR AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EIGHT HIGH RANKING GSL OFFICIALS ABOUT POSSIBLE LOCATIONS. NO COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE AND NONE WILL BE SOUGHT UNTIL SOME

LOCATION IS OFFERED FOR CONSIDERATION FOR NEW BUILDING. IN RESPONSE TO US AMB'S QUERY WHETHER ALTERNATIVE OF RENTING ADEQUATE SPACE WAS BEING EXPLORED AS WELL, COUNCIL PRESIDENT SAID HE PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO FURTHER RESORT TO TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT, RECOMMENDING STRUCTURE SIMILAR TO ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK, BUT SAID THAT ALTERNATE RENTAL SPACE WAS ALSO BEING EXAMINED. BUREAU DIRECTOR ADDED THAT EXPERIENCE OF PRESENT QUARTERS WHERE RESIDENCE WAS CONVERTED TO BUREAU OFFICE BUILDING CLEARLY INDICATED LIKELIHOOD OF WASTE IN UTILIZATION OF SPACE IN RENTED BUILDING.

7. US ASSESSMENT ON PARITY BASIS IS RS 55,656 (\$8,571.43)
(SEE COUNCIL DOCUMENT C 74/31, MAY 24, 1974).
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MEETING CHAIRMAN, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB02062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740197-0270
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740730/aaaaazbs.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 148757
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 123RD (POLICY) SESSION OF THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION
TAGS: EAID, TECH, US, XB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005